

FISCAL NOTE
SB 720 - HB 1791

April 11, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Requires the TennCare Bureau to conduct criminal background checks on applicants and to include a TBI or FBI investigation and a National Crime Information Center check.
2. Requires the Bureau to deny the application of any applicant found to be a fugitive from justice and to refer the matter to law enforcement.
3. Requires the Bureau to pay for the background checks and to use any application fees it receives for the background checks.
4. Authorizes the Bureau to perform criminal background checks on TennCare enrollees throughout the re-verification process.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$642,500 Recurring
\$91,200 One-Time

Other Fiscal Impact - Increase Federal Expenditures - \$642,500 Recurring
\$91,200 One-Time

Estimate assumes:

- an increase in state expenditures for the cost of conducting background checks on an estimated 156,000 new applicants annually. Estimate further assumes participation by the federal government in the cost.
- the TBI will conduct the background checks. The volume of additional background checks will require 23 additional positions in TBI and \$182,400 in one-time cost for equipment and related expenses.
- bill allows but does not mandate an application fee. Estimate assumes the TennCare Bureau would not implement such a fee.

Note: According to the TBI, federal law prohibits anyone but a criminal justice agency from conducting a search of the federal criminal database. Cost estimate reflects the cost to search the TBI database only.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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